

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02878 251518Z

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SUBJECT: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: US STATEMENT AT PLENARY FEB 25

TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 86

1. FOLLOWING IS US STATEMENT PRESENTED AT PLENARY MEETING
FEB 25.

BEGIN TEXT.

YESTERDAY DR. SAFRONOV PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED THE VIEW
OF THE SOVIET SIDE ON IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM OF
ASSURING THAT A NUCLEAR WEAPONS TEST IS NOT CARRIED OUT UNDER
COVER OF A GROUP EXPLOSION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

THE US SIDE HAS NO QUARREL WITH THE GENERAL ANALYSIS
PRESENTED BY DR. SAFRONOV. WE BELIEVE IT IS RECOGNIZED
BY BOTH SIDES THAT TELESEISMIC MEANS HAVE A LIMITED CAPA-
BILITY TO DETERMINE THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF A COLLATERAL
EXPLOSION. WE AGREE THAT THE CONCLUSIONS TO BE DRAWN FROM
AN ANALYSIS SUCH AS DR. SAFRONOV'S ARE THE PRODUCT OF:

(1) EACH SIDE'S ESTIMATE OF EQUIPMENT CAPABILITIES,
AND (2) JUDGMENT CONCERNING VARIOUS FACTORS OF RISK AND
PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF LIFE UNDER THE AGREEMENT.
IT CONTINUES TO BE THE VIEW OF THE US SIDE THAT THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02878 251518Z

RIGHT TO DEPLOY A LOCAL SEISMIC NETWORK SHOULD BEGIN AT

AN AGGREGATE YIELD LEVEL OF 300 KILOTONS.
DR. SAFRONOV'S PRESENTATION MADE CLEAR THAT SETTING
THIS THRESHOLD AT A HIGHER LEVEL WOULD HAVE TWO PRINCIPAL
EFFECTS:

(1) IT WOULD REDUCE THE PROBABILITY OF DETECTING
A COLLATERAL WEAPON TEST.

(2) IT WOULD INCREASE THE PROPORTION OF EXPLOSIONS
FOR WHICH THE VERIFYING SIDE MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO
CONSIDER THAT A COLLATERAL WEAPON TEST MAY HAVE BEEN
CARRIED OUT.

THESE ISSUES ARE ALSO RELATED TO THE QUESTION OF WHERE
THE LIMIT ON THE AGGREGATE YIELD OF AN EXPLOSION SHOULD
BE SET. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE HIGHER THE AGGREGATE YIELD
OF AN EXPLOSION, THE MORE DIFFICULT IT WOULD BE TO DETER-
MINE THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF AN COLLATERAL WEAPONS TEST.
CONTINUING THE EXAMPLE CITED BY DR. SAFRONOV, A 200-KILOTON
COLLATERAL WEAPONS TEST CARRIED OUT IN THE PRESENCE OF A
ONE-MEGATON AGGREGATE YIELD EXPLOSION REPRESENTS AN
INCREASE IN TOTAL YIELD OF ONLY 20 PERCENT. IF THE AGGREGATE
YIELD OF THE EXPLOSION WERE TWO MEGATONS, SUCH A COLLATERAL
WEAPON TEST REPRESENTS AN INCREASE IN TOTAL YIELD OF ONLY
10 PERCENT. GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES IN THE DETERMINATION OF
YIELD BY TELESEISMIC MEANS, ANY RISK PERCEIVED IN CARRY-
ING OUT A COLLATERAL WEAPON TEST DECREASES AS THE AGGREGATE
GROUP YIELD INCREASES.

BECAUSE OF THE DECREASING EFFECTIVENESS OF TELE-
SEISMIC MEANS FOR DETECTING A COLLATERAL WEAPONS TEST, AS
AGGREGATE YIELD INCREASES, WE BELIEVE ADDITIONAL TECHNIQUES
AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION MUST BE UTILIZED.
AS DR. SAFRONOV NOTED, DESIGNATED PERSONNEL MAY ALSO
ACQUIRE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THIS PROBLEM. THE FORMU-
LATION OF OUR POSITION ON ACCESS BY DESIGNATED PERSONNEL
IS, IN PART, BASED ON RECOGNITION OF THIS FACT.

ON THE BASIS OF OUR ESTIMATES OF LEVEL OF RISK THAT A
COLLATERAL EXPLOSION WILL GO UNDETECTED AND THE LIKELY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02878 251518Z

FREQUENCY OF DOUBTFUL ASSESSMENT THAT A COLLATERAL EXPLO-
SION HAD TAKEN PLACE, IT IS THE US VIEW THAT AGGREGATE
YIELDS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ONE MEGATON AND THAT A LOCAL
SEISMIC NETWORK SHOULD BE ALLOWED ABOVE 300 KILOTONS.
IN GENERAL THIS IS A SUMMARY OF VIEWS OF THE US ON
THESE ISSUES. I'M SURE YOU WANT TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL
THE TECHNICAL FACTORS INVOLVED.
I WILL ALSO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON ADDITIONAL FACTORS

DISCUSSED YESTERDAY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE QUESTION OF FREQUENCIES AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RADIOS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LOCAL SEISMIC NET. RECOGNIZING THE PRACTICAL PROCESS OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON SUCH ASPECTS, ESPECIALLY FREQUENCIES, THE US INCORPORATED LANGUAGE ON THIS IN THE TEXT WE PUT ON THE TABLE HERE MANY MONTHS AGO. IT HAS ONLY BEEN IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT THE SOVIET SIDE HAS CHOSEN TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS OF THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE US TEXT SUGGESTS THAT THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF FREQUENCIES NEED NOT BE DECIDED IN THE AGREEMENT WE ARE TRYING TO CONSTRUCT NOW. IF THE SOVIET SIDE HAS ANY PREFERENCE FOR A PARTICULAR TYPE OF ANTENNA CHARACTERISTICS WE WILL BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER THEM IF YOU WILL INFORM US OF THOSE PREFERENCES.

THE SOVIET SIDE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE REASONS BEHIND THE US PROPOSAL FOR THE LOCAL SEISMIC NET TO BE OPERATED FOR 15 DAYS AFTER THE EXPLOSION. WE CAN ALSO DISCUSS THAT MATTER IF YOU WISH TODAY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS CONCLUDES MY GENERAL REMARKS.

END TEXT.

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